BSNL has promised to provide 30 lakh cellular connections during the current year 2003-2004. But this target is small. Other companies are concentrating on urban areas only.

Many customers have deposited money for wired telephone connections. But the BSNL has stopped to provide wired telephone connections so that the customers can be encouraged to use new wireless telephones.

I urge upon the government to immediately start WLL service.

(xi) Need to ensure that construction of roads under Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana is undertaken on the recommendation of concerned Member of Parliament

SHRI MANJAY LAL (Samastipur): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, it is informed by the Lok Sabha from time to time that no meeting should be held in states and in districts during the session of Lok Sabha. On 20.7.03 meeting of the samastipur and Saran Zila Parishad was summoned despite the fact that Monsoon session of the Lok Sabha was to be started from 21.7.03. M.Ps. have no right to send their representatives to attend the meetings of Zila Parishads. In this meeting as I was informed by some Councillors telephonically, the topic for discussion was Pradhan Mantri Gram Sarak Yojana.

The Ministry of Rural Development has issued instructions to this effect to all the states that permission of concerned Members of Parliament must be taken in respect of selecting works under Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana. In this meeting, it was decided that the list recommended by the Block Panchayat Samiti will be forwarded to the Central Government through the State Government. After the meeting was over Secretary, Zila Parishad-cum-Collector of Samastipur and Saran districts and the Chairman of Zila Parishad sent a misleading list of proposal for 18 km. Nadhora Vidhan Sabha and 16 km in Sonepur Vidhan Sabha. The very objectives of the Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana will be defeated by such an act.

The proposals for sivan district of Bihar have also been sent in the same manner. I urge upon the government to return all such misleading lists sent or being sent by other districts like samastipur, Chhapra and siwan and on the recommendations of the MPs work should be taken up in Blocks falling in their constituencies under Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana. In the districts where such type of incidents are taking place, the amount sanctioned by the Central Government should be stopped immediately to prevent the misuse of the Central funds. Thank you.

(xii) Need to declare gram panchayat as a unit for the purpose of crop insurance in Orissa

[English]

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (Sambalpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Orissa faced a severe drought situation last year, which has almost broken the backbone of the farmers because the State is suffering from natural calamities like cyclone, flood and drought consecutively since last four years. Lakhs of farmers had gone for crop insurance in the State. But unfortunately the assessment of crop loss has been done so erroneously that proper justice has not been done to the farmers of the State. Where there has been crop loss of more than 70 per cent, the farmers are compensated at a loss rate of only 20 per cent to 25 per cent in the State, particularly in my constituency of Sambalpur which consists of both Sambalpur and Bargarh districts. The demand of the farmers to make gram panchayat a unit instead of the prevalent policy of making block a unit for crop insurance has not yet been considered whereas in many other States *panchayat* has been declared a unit for this purpose.

I urge upon the Central Government to reconsider the whole issue and make proper arrangement to adequately compensate the farmers of Orissa for the heavy loss they have incurred during last year due to unprecedented drought situation. The Government should also consider to declare the *gram panchayat* as a unit for the purpose of crop insurance.

(xiii) Need to solve the problems being faced by Scheduled Tribes at Bhoargarh, Nasik, Maharashtra due to ban on construction of houses near RADAR Centre.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon): There is a RADAR Centre at Bhoargarh, Tehsil Dindori District Nasik, Maharashtra. The officers or employees

[Shri Haribhai Shankar Mahale]

entrusted with the task of maintaining the RADAR Centre should have stayed near the RADAR centre but they are staying 12 kilometers away. The Forest department has allotted a large area of land for their dwellings and other facilities. Nearby area is inhibited by tribals for the last 50-60 years. They are facing a serious problem because construction of new houses and residing has been prohibited within an area of 100 km. from this centre. Through you, sir, I request the Government of India, particularly the Ministry of Defence to pay special attention to this problem and the difficulties being faced by the people.

(xiv) Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of Maharashtra for early execution of Gosikhurd Irrigation Project in Vidarbha region of the State

[English]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur): Sir, there is a very important irrigation project which has been pending execution for over 15 years in Vidarbha region. The foundation for the Gosikhurd Irrigation project, known as Indira Sagar Dam, covered under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme, was laid on 22.4.1988 by our late Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhiji. Necessary provision for its implementation was made in the Sixth Five-Year Plan. The original cost of this project was estimated to be Rs. 461.19 crore, which is now estimated Rs. 2,344.23 crore though only 16 per cent work has been done. Looking to the present pace of its progress, there is every likelihood of further cost escalation.

It was conceived to provide irrigation facilities for over 10 lakh acres of land besides solving the drinking water problem of many villages and turning the East Vidarbha region to other developmental activities. The achievement of the potential upto the Ninth Plan is however quite insignificant. Even the land owners who became destitute consequent upon the acquisition of their land have not been paid proper compensation and rehabilitated and they are greatly agitated.

The immediate implementation of this irrigation project is the absolute necessity for this backward Vidarbha region and all assistance needs to be given to the Government of Maharashtra so as to ensure its prompt execution. I would urge upon the Government to treat this long pending project as a national project and to provide the required financial assistance to the State Government in the matter.

14.23 hrs.

SIXTH SCHEDULE TO THE CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2003—*Contd.*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House shall now take up Item No. 13. The time allotted for this Bill was two hours. We have already taken one hour and twenty-three minutes. Thirty-seven minutes are left. Dr. Jayant Rongpi was on his legs.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): You are requested to tell us when the another Bill will be taken up and how much time will be allowed for it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Another Bill will be taken up after this Bill and two hour have been allotted for it.

[English]

DR. JAYANT RONGPI (Autonomous District Assam): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I was saying that since last 17 years, the people of Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills, the hill districts of Assam, have been demanding the implementation of article 244-A, that is, the creation of an autonomous State. This particular article and this particular provision are exclusively and specifically applicable only to the hill districts of Assam. This demand is under the consideration of the Government of India and by virtue of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2003, the entire Bodoland Territorial Area Council (BTC) has been now brought under the purview of article 244-A. That means for all practical purposes, the Government of India is creating two provisions of autonomous State within the State of Assam. I am not sure whether this was a part of the agreement with BLT or not, but by consequence of this Bill, you have created a provision. Previously there was provision of only one autonomous State comprising Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills. Now, you have brought the Bodoland Autonomous Council area also under the provision of autonomous State, that is, article 244-A.

I want a categorical commitment from the Government of India in this regard. This is a specific area inhabited by the hill tribals. There is no demographic problem; there is no problem of boundary, there is no problem of demarcation. While considering the demand of the hill